

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, February 9. 1692.

Quest. 1. **W**hat is the Cause of Snow, Hail and Frost?

Ans. We find that the Foreign Virtuosi have endeavour'd, and perfected a very exact Method for making Artificial Snow, which will give us no small light in the Nature of that we see fall from the Heavens: The manner is thus. They prepared a small house, or rather a sort of a Cave, without any other entrance for Wind than what they design'd, at 2 opposite sides were certain pipes of Water which convey'd water into a Cistern that stood betwixt them; these 2 sorts of opposite pipes were fed by hot water and cold; betwixt these 2 sets of pipes were certain small Chinks level'd against the middle of the Cistern where the hot and cold Water met in their falling down, and on the outside was a sort of Wind-fan, or something turn'd round with Sails to drive the Wind forcibly thro' the Chinks which fronted the mixture of the 2 Waters; so that betwixt the strife of the hot and cold Water, and with the violence of the Wind that beat upon 'em, there arose instead of froth a real and perfect Snow, which fled up and down the place, and continued after it fell a considerable time before it melted: Thus much for *Artificial Snow*, and now for the *Natural*. No one can be ignorant that particular Climates have particular Minerals, and that the Air must partake of the Nature of the ascending Vapours, and so be more or less Sulphureous, Vitrealine, Nitrous, &c. as also 'tis granted on all hands, that the Air in no part of the World is without Nitre; for if so, all Creatures would soon expire, only some places have more, and some less, according to the prevalency of the Sun which dissipates Aerio-nitral vapours. Thus under the frozen Zone, as in *Freez-land* &c. are (if we may so say) the Treasuries of Nitre, which God and Nature seem to store up there for the Moderation of the torrid Zone, and temperature of all Climates, when proper Gales fetch 'em from thence. Our Virtuosi here, and those of the *Academy del Cimento*, have made sufficient Experiences about Freezing, to persuade us that Nitre is effectual for such ends. Hence when any Aerio-nitral Vapour from the North meets with a warm Vapour coming from the South, the Antiperistasis or strife betwixt the hot and cold vapours (Clouds or Mists) helpt on by a brisk Gale of Wind, has the Effect we see, to wit, *Snow*, as in the Artificial Snow-Cave we have spoke of. If any person shall think it incredible that heat should be any ingredient in Snow, let 'em consider the Tryal abovementioned, as also that it is sensibly warmer when it Snows, than a little before. As for Hail, it is nothing else but drops of Rain congeal'd as they fall, by the coldness of that Air wherein there is much Nitre which the Sun Beams have not dissipated: And thus it is in all Frosts upon Water, and other Liquids, which are congeal'd by the frigerifick particles of Nitrous Air. If any one asks what these particles are, we refer 'em to their own tryal when in a frosty Morning at a proper turning in the Corner of some street or other, they feel a sharp Gale which makes the Tears stand in their Eyes, and scarifies their very face; 'tis not the vehemency of the Wind, for then it would have the same Effect in a warm Southerly Gale, but 'tis the particles of Nitre in the Wind that are so troublesome to us.

Quest. 2. You are desired to shew the Nature of that Love we ought to have for Enemies, supposing a difference from that we bear to a Friend?

Ans. We have only two Rules left us in this Case, either that of Sacred Writ, or that of Profane History. In the first, That an Enemy is overcome with soft words, we have the suffrage of the *wisest Man*. Obliging Actions, and good returns heap Coals of Fire upon our Enemies Heads, vanquish their prejudices, and melt

their very malice into tenderness, it would be too tedious to bring the many Instances we meet with in History about treating Enemies so handsomely, that the Effect has had the universal Applause of all Wise Men: Take one Instance for all. *Alphonfus King of Naples and Sicily was all Goodness and Mercy, he had besieged the City of Cajeta that had insolently rebell'd against him; the City being straitned for want of necessary provisions, put forth their old Men, Women and Children, and such as were un-serviceable, and shut their Gates upon 'em. The Kings Council advis'd they should be forced back into the City, as a means to make its delivery more feasible, yet the King pitying their distress, let 'em depart, tho' he knew it would protract the Siege, and being advis'd against it, he said, I value the safety of so many persons at the rate of an hundred Cajeta's: The Citizens moved with such a Vertue, submitted to him. Antonius Caldora was also one of the most powerful Enemies of Naples, who being overthrow'n in a Battel, and made Prisoner, all Men perswaded the King to rid his hands of so insolent a person, and so dangerous to the Kingdom; the King oppos'd it, and gave him both his Life and Estate. This Princes words were agreeable to his Actions, for being asked why he was thus favourable to all Men, even to those that were evil, Because, said he, Good Men are won by Justice, and bad by Clemency. Some of his Ministers complaining of his Lenity, he said, Would ye have Lyons and Bears to rule over you? Clemency is the property of Men, Cruelty of Beasts. It is in vain to go about to calculate an exact draught of a wise Carriage towards Enemies, since the variety of Circumstances alters the Measures, only this should be a General Rule, Change Conditions, and treat 'em as you would be treated your self. A late Bishop of Canterbury was so remarkable for this Vertue, that it grew into a Proverb, Do the Bishop of Canterbury an Injury, and you shall be sure to have him your Friend.*

Quest. 3. Is there any thing in the Weapon-Salve, or Sympatherick Powder? — Does it really cure wounds, and how?

Ans. Sir Kenelm Digby will tell us there's a great deal, as the little Books wherein he has printed his Dissertation at *Mompellier* concerning it informs us. The old way of making it was Magical, with I know not how many odd ingredients, but his is only simple Powder of *Vitriol*, prepar'd by the Heat of the Sun, which he assures us will heal any green Wound if sprinkled on the Blood, and kept warm, tho' at ne're so great a distance. This however we know has been try'd, that a Dog being run thro' some fleshy part of his Body with a Sword, and this Powder apply'd to the Blood, the Wound has been cur'd, and he has liv'd and done well; but the mischief is, that another Dog has done the same, serv'd in the same manner, tho' no Powder used, there being as all know, a *Balsamick* power in Blood it self, which oftentimes cures a green wound, and closes the Lips on't without any other Remedy. We have also Instances of persons, who having accidentally hurt themselves have been cured of slight wounds by the same way: But still the doubt recurs, Whether they'd not have done as well without? This however they have affirm'd, which is something more considerable, that having accidentally lost the Cloth with some of the Blood and the Powder sprinkled on it, for that way 'twas used, and kept warm about 'em, they immediately felt the wound rage, and extreemly pain 'em, tho' they knew not of the loss, which was agen asswag'd as soon as the Cloth was restor'd to a moderate heat: And this we have had from persons of Quality and Judgment, and can't our selves question the truth on't, for which reason we are also ready to believe many of the Instances Sir Kenelm relates Accordingly taking the Fact for granted, we'll now enquire into the manner on't, according to Sir Kenelm's



Notion, which is, that the particles which proceed from the wound mingle with those which come from the Blood and *Viriol* mixt together, the *Volatile Salt* of which *Viriol* is of an excellent Balsamick Virtue, tho' the fix'd astringent and corroding, and thence are carry'd to the wound it self, which is thereby speedily heal'd. And the truth is, this account seems rational enough, if the Blood and *Viriol* be near the Wound, but it at any great distance from it, we see not how such attraction or communication is performed, nor believe any such thing can be.

Quest. 4. *Why is there no Rain in Egypt, Ethiopia, &c. where the River Nile overflows, and the Cause of its overflowing?*

Ans. That there's no Rain in *Ethiopia*, or that Countrey, falsely call'd *Prestor Johns*, is as great a Mistake as that the Emperour of the *Abyssines* is the true *Prestor*; for *Ludolphus* assures us that there are frequently prodigious Storms of Thunder and Rain, and indeed Naturalists say, it never Thunders but it rains less or more. And to these vast Storms which fall in *Ethiopia* about the time the *Nile* overflows, are in all probability to be attributed the constant and regular Inundation of that River: For there being no Rain in *Egypt* it self, there Modern Travellers assure us its a mistake, some of 'em having bin wet to the Skin with showers in that Countrey. But how then shall we reconcile this with what we find in the Sacred Scriptures it self, *Zech. 14. 18. If the Family of Egypt go not up that have no Rain*; and the common Tradition both in Prose and Verse, "That wanting no rain, they worship the *Nile*, and need not the aid of *Jupiter himself*"? Its answered, that Rain there is as prodigious a thing as a Comet here, it being against the Nature of their Countrey, which is situated in the midst of nothing but vast sandy Deserts, so that from Land little but fiery Exhalations can be drawn, which the Travellers sometimes find to their cost, when suddenly assaulted with suffocating Winds as they pass those Deserts, which if they perceive not soon enough, endangers their Lives, if not perfectly kills 'em: Then for the Sea, what little vapours the Sun draws from it may be easily consum'd by the sultry heat of those Regions: If then a Storm of Rain happens to fall in *Egypt*, its but a straggler wandring thither, and losing its way from *Ethiopia*, or some of the Neighbouring Countries, as those *Northwesters of Virginia*, and the Hurricanes of that and other places, tho' not so violent in our World.

Quest. 5. *Whether Christ descended actually into Hell, or whether Hell in the Creed be taken for the Grave?*

Ans. These are 2 Questions sufficiently distinct from each other. That Christ did actually descend into Hell is true, or else our Creed must be false which asserts it. But since neither that nor our Articles express what they mean by the word *Hell*, leaving it only in *Equilibrio*, and great men are extremely divided in their Opinions concerning it, we don't think fit to conclude any thing positively in the matter, only giving the different Opinions, with their Reasons — Some interpret *Hell* only of the Grave, and its sure enough as they tell us, that both the *Greek*, *Latin*, and *Hebrew* words *Hades*, *Scheol*, and *Inferi*, do signifie either the State of the Dead, or the place of the Damned, which might easily be confounded, it being a common Opinion, and perhaps a true one, that Hell is in the Center of the Earth. Nay, even our *English* word *Hell* may bear the same signification, being deriv'd from the old *Saxon* *Heil*, to cover. Those who take *Hell* for the Grave, tell us that 'tis only an explanation, (tho' a dark one) or rather indifferent expression of that phrase, *dead and buried*, since 'twas not in the old *Roman Creed*, as *Ruffinus* affirms, nor is it in the *Nicene*, only *he suffer'd, and was bury'd, and the third day rose again*; and in that which we call the *Athanasian*, *who suffer'd for our Salvation, descended into Hell, the third day, &c.* without any mention of his burial, which seems to imply the same thing was meant by both. And of this Opinion generally are our Protestant Divines: The other is, that he actually descended into the place of the Damned; and thus they interpret his descending into the lower parts of the Earth, his then *spoiling principalities and powers, and his preaching to the Spirits in prison*; and of this Opinion are all the Catholics, (thinking it favours Purgatory, (tho' they're extremely mista-

ken in the consequence) and also many famous Divines of our own Communion.

* * Some malicious Persons having put an ill construction upon these words of our last *Saturdays* Advertisement, that all the Abstracts of Books made together, should be printed in the same Journal entituled, *The Works of the Learned*; as if we had a share in the composing of the said Abstracts, or as tho' Mr. *De la Crose* design'd to translate something out of the *Universal Bibliothek*, or other Foreign Journal; we thought fit to advertize that this construction is altogether without ground, and that the said Author intends to write his *Journal* alone, and on the same foot as he did before, unless that he shall endeavour to give out a shilling Book as often as his Health, and the abundance of valuable Books and papers will allow it, which will be Printed. for *J. Duntion*.

☞ In our next *Mercury* shall be published an answer to the Questions about Painting, Philosophers-stone, Opium, the Seat of the Soul, &c.

Advertisements.

This is to give Notice, that Mrs. Norridge is removed from right against Bull-Inn-Court in the Strand, to the corner-house at Burly-street-end, at the sign of the Olive-tree, an Oyl-shop, close adjoining to Exeter-Change in the Strand.

☞ **W**HO hath an infallible and matchless Powder for the Stone and Gravel, which great Secret, with many more, her Father left her at his Deceale, he being a Dr. of Physick, of 50 Years practice, and lived till the Age of 88. This Powder is so powerfull, that it hath given ease in one hours time, in the greatest Extremity, to those that at other times continued many days in pain, so that the Spectators have been astonished to see the Effects thereof, and said, *It was a Crime to conceal it*. This Powder never fails the Stone in the Kidneys, which is certainly known by a pain in the lower part of the Back, or near the Loyns; it hath the same effects of the Stone Chollick, one dose of this Powder gives ease in one hour, and brings away the Stone in a few hours after: So that one Paper generally cures a fit of the Stone, except it be in a desperate Case, as stoppage of Urine, and no likelihood of any thing but Death, then it may be 2 or 3 papers may be requisite. But because this may seem incredible to many, as well as it did to others, before they experienced it; therefore to confirm the truth of it, she is willing to expose it for an universal good, being very much entreated to let a certain price upon it for some small time until the Effects be known. And to satisfy those that are yet timorous, both for the safety and success of the above-named Powder, they may enquire at the places following, viz. Of the Vice-Countess *Lainsbury*, at her House over against Mr. *Norris* Stationer in *Pall-mall*, concerning a poor Woman at *Tunbridge-wells* which was known to be much afflicted. Of Mr. *Gilbert*, Knight of the Shire, and Parliament Man for *Darbyshire*, and his Lady, who both experienced it, and had ease in the space of half an hour: They Lodge at Mrs. *Deveraux's* House in *little Deans-yard Westminster*. And Madam *Allen*, at Mr. *Pancefords* House a little beyond *Red-Lyon Inn* in *Grays-Inn-lane*, after she had continued in pain above a month, and had stoppage of Urine for the space of 8 days and nights, and given over for Death. At *Justice Lawrence's*, at his House in *Mary-bone-street* near *Golden-Square*. At Mr. *Dowens* House in *Green-street* near *Leicester-Fields*, concerning their Aunt Madam *Cordel*. Madam *Penceford*, who was Governess to the Countess of *Manchesters* Children, the truth of which may be known of Mrs. *King* at her House in the New-vay near *Turtle-street, Westminster*: And Mrs. *Baldwin*, at Mr. *Wassermans* House in *Salisbury-street* in the Strand, Mrs. *Billingsey* at the Printing-Press under the Piazza of the Royal Exchange, with several others, who for Brevitys sake are here omitted. This Powder is sold at ten shillings the paper; to be taken at once when the pain is upon them in a Wine glass of White Wine and Water mixt, and to take it after the same manner for the Chollick: The Powder is only to be had at her lodgings as above said. She hath also the Sovereign Lozenge for Coughs, Colds, Tifick and Consumptions. They are seal'd up in 12 d. and Half Crown Papers, and sold at the places abovenamed. She may be spoken with certainly two days in the week, (which are) Tuesdays and Thursdays at her Lodging above said, but the Powder may be had at any time.

☞ In *Flow-yard*, the third Door in *Grays-Inn-lane*, lives Dr. *Thomas Kirlens*, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King *Charles the Second*, until his death; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Business) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts; Scabs, Itch, Scurlis, Leprosies, and Venereal Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished: Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropsies, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. With another Drink at 1 s. 6 d. a Quart. He cures all Fevers and hot Distempers without Bleeding, except in few Bodies. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes for nothing.